

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 204157

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC,BEXP,UR

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN: PROPOSED "SIBERIA LAND OF
TOMORROW EXHIBIT IN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

1. PLEASE IMMEDIATELY CONVEY FOLLOWING COPY OF LETTER,
SENT BY DIPLOMATIC POUCH TODAY, FROM NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY DIRECTOR PORTER KIER TO IGOR POCHITALIN,
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ON EXHIBITIONS OF THE
U.S.S.R. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: "I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
MESSAGE OF AUGUST 22 AND YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE
IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS WE FACE IN PREPARING THE "SIBERIA"
EXHIBIT FOR OPENING IN NMNH ON OCTOBER 25. HOWEVER, TWO
MOST PRESSING AND ALARMING PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO MY
ATTENTION. THESE INVOLVE (A) THE TWO BAIKAL SEALS THAT I
UNDERSTAND YOU WISH TO FORM PART OF THE EXHIBIT, AND (B)
THE EXHIBIT ITSELF.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE SEALS, THE MARINE MAMMALS PROTECTION
ACT OF 1972, WHICH IS THE FOCUS OF INTENSE PUBLIC INTEREST,
REQUIRES CERTAIN SPECIFIC ADVANCE INFORMATION ON THE TRANS-
PORTATION, CARE AND DISPLAY OF ALL MARINE MAMMALS. ENCLO-
SURE A SPECIFIES THE DETAILS NEEDED.
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3. WITH REGARD TO THE REST OF THE EXHIBIT, YOUR TELEX
SAID YOU HAD MAILED TO ME A "LIST OF EXHIBITS". I HAVE
NOT YET RECEIVED THIS LIST, BUT HOPEFULLY IT WILL ARRIVE
VERY SOON AND ANSWER QUESTIONS WHICH NEED IMMEDIATE REPLY.

HOWEVER, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE THESE ANSWERS NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 5. I THEREFORE ATTACH ALSO (ENCLOSURE B) A LIST OF THESE QUESTIONS (I BELIEVE HANDCARRIED BY CULTURAL ATTACHE SAKOVICH TO YOU ABOUT AUGUST 14) IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY TELEGRAPH THE ANSWERS IMMEDIATELY AGAINST THE CONTINGENCY THAT YOUR LETTER MAY NOT ARRIVE IN TIME.

4. THE FIRM "DESIGN AND PRODUCTION", WHICH I UNDERSTAND YOU WILL DESIGNATE TO DISMOUNT THE CURRENT EXHIBIT AND TO INSTALL "SIBERIA" TELLS ME IT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED (A) YOUR CONTRACT TO INSTALL "SIBERIA" OR (B) ANY INSTRUCTION THAT THE SEALS WILL APPEAR IN #SIBERIA".

5. I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH MY NEED FOR YOUR URGENT REPLY TOALL OF THE ENCLOSED QUESTIONS BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS (WASHINGTON TIME) SEPTEMBER 5, 1975. IM MY EARLIER COMMUNICATION TO YOU, I HAD SPECIFIED AUGUST 29 AS OUR DEADLINE. IN VIEW OF YOUR INTENSE PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, I HAVE EXTENDED THIS DATE NOW TO SEPTEMBER 5, BUT THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE TOTAL JOB REQUIRE THAT THE WORK COMMENCE BY SEPTEMBER 5 IN ORDER TO BE DONE IN TIME. I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INTERPRET AN ABSENCE OF THE NEEDED INFORMATION ON THAT DATE AS YOUR CANCELLATION OF THE EXHIBIT.

6. SINCERELY YOURS, PORTER KIER.

7. ENCLOSURE A: FROM MARINE MAMMALS PROTECTION ACT. (A) MODE OF TRANSPORTATION; (B) NAME OF TRANSPORTATION COMPANY; (C) LENGTH OF TIME IN TRANSIT FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE ANIMAL (S) FROM THE CAPTURE SITE TO THE RESEARCH OR DISPLAY FACILITY; (D) LENGTH OF TIME IN TRANSIT FOR ANY FUTURE MOVE OR TRANSFER OF THE ANIMAL(S) THAT IS PLANNED; (E) THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE COMMON CARRIER OR AGENT USED FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THE ANIMALS; (F) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PEN, CONTAINER, CAGE, CRADLE, OR OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVICES USED, BOTH TO HOLD THE ANIMAL AT THE CAPTURE SITE AND DURING TRANSPORTATION; (G) SPECIAL CARE BEFORE AND DURING TRANSPORTATION, SUCH AS SALVES, ANTIBIOTICS, MOISTURE; AND (H) A STATEMENT AS TO WHETHER THE ANIMALS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A VETERINARIAN OR OTHER SIMILARLY QUALIFIED PERSON, AND THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SUCH PERSON.

8. DESCRIBE THE CONTEMPLATED CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF ANY MAMMALS EXHIBITED, INCLUDING A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITIES WHERE ANY SUCH MAMMALS WILL BE MAINTAINED OR DISPLAYED, INCLUDING: (A) THE DIMENSIONS OF THE POOLS OR OTHER HOLDING FACILITIES AND THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS BY SPECIES TO BE HELD IN EACH; (B) THE WATER SUPPLY, AMOUNT, AND QUALITY; (C) THE DIET, AMOUNT AND TYPE, FOR ALL ANI-

MALS; (D) SANITATION PRACTICES USED; (E) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE STAFF; AND (F) A WRITTEN CERTIFICATION FROM A LICENSED VETERINARIAN KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE FIELD OF MARINE MAMMALS THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY REVIEWED THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSPORTING AND MAINTAINING THE ANIMAL(S) AND THAT IN HIS OPINION THEY ARE ADEQUATE TO PROVIDE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE ANIMAL.

9. IF THE APPLICATION IS FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY, PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DISPLAY, INCLUDING: (A) A DESCRIPTION OF THE MANNER, LOCATION, AND NUMBER OF TIMES PER DAY AND PER WEEK THE ANIMAL(S) WILL BE DISPLAYED; (B) A LIST OF ANY EDUCATIONAL OR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS CONNECTED TO THE CONTEMPLATED DISPLAY.

10. ENCLOSURE B: IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS: (1) WHO IS THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO CAN SUPPLY US WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE EXHIBIT AND ALSO KEEP US INFORMED OF ITS STATUS?; (2) WHAT IS PLAN FOR THE USE OF THE SPACE?; (3) DO YOU PLAN AND ARE YOU ARRANGING FOR DEMOLITION AND INSTALLATION OF THE EXHIBIT BY MID-SEPTEMBER?; (4) DO YOU KNOW WHICH UNITED STATES FIRM WILL BE HANDLING THE EXHIBIT FOR YOU?; (5) WHO IN YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL BE DOING ANY ADVANCE PUBLICITY FOR THE EXHIBIT?; (6) MAY WE RECEIVE SOME 8 X 10 INCH BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS, AND COLOR TRANSPARENCIES, OF PORTIONS OF THE EXHIBIT TO USE IN PUBLICITY?; (7) WHAT WILL

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BE PORT OF ENTRY AND DATE OF ARRIVAL FOR BAIKAL SEALS?; (8) WHEN WILL TOTAL EXHIBIT ARRIVE AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY? INGERSOLL

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